THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NAH RAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Setting up of North Karnapura Super Thermal Power Project in Bihar

954. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA Will the Minister of POWER AND NON - CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bihar is one of the most power starved States;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government of Bihar is ready to provide land and other pre-requisites for setting up of North Karnapura Super Thermal Power Project at Hazaribag; and

(c) if so, by what time Government plans to implement the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NAH RAI): (a) During April-July, 1991, Bihar faced an energy shortage of 31.9 per cent as against average shortage of 16.9 in the Eastern Region.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The project will require investment approval after issues like water availability, funds, environmental clearance, concurrence of Damodar Valley Corporation etc., are settled.

Airport at Jabalpur

955. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI:
KUMARI ALIA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken to get an airport constructed at Jabalpur which is of immense importance because of army installation, Ordnance factories and tourist attractions like Kanha National Park and Bhaire Ghat Marble Rocks; and

(b) what steps are propose to be taken to connect Jabalpur by air pending the construction of airport?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) The National Airports Authority has an airport at Jabalpur. Upgradation of the airport for Boeing 737 operations has not been possible because of the proximity of Ordnance Depot and Ammunition Factory of the Ministry of Defence.

(b) The runway at Jabalpur airport is not adequate for operation of Boeing 737 aircraft. Indian Airlines cannot operate to the existing airport at Jabalpur with the type of aircraft presently in its fleet. For commercial and operation reasons, Vayudoot also is not in a position to operate to Jabalpur at the present moment.

Air services in Madhya Pradesh

956. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI:
KUMARI ALIA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh has requested the Central Government for re-introducing certain air services in the State; and

(b) if so, what steps are the Central Government taking to connect those eleven places by air which are mentioned in the Chief Minister's aforementioned letter?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.